

Message Text

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CIAE-00 EPG-02 COME-00 DLOS-09 DODE-00 DOTE-00
EB-07 EPA-01 ERDA-05 FMC-01 TRSE-00 H-01 INR-07
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TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152127

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SV, UK, AR
SUBJECT: ARGENTINE INFORMAL REQUEST FOR US VIEWS ON
RESTRICTION ON LOCATION OF RESEARCH ACTIVITIES OF
"PROSPECTIVE" CONSULTATIVE PARTIES

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REF: LONDON 10075

1. ARGENTINE REP AT EIGHTH MONTHLY ANTARCTIC TREATY CON-
SULTATIVE PREPARATORY MEETING ASKED US REP "VERY INFORMALLY"
ABOUT US REACTION TO A POSSIBLE ARGENTINE PROPOSAL THAT
COUNTRIES CONTEMPLATING FULFILLING THE REQUIREMENTS OF
ARTICLE IX (2) OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY AND ACHIEVING

CONSULTATIVE STATUS RESTRICT THEIR SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATION TO AREAS OF ANTARCTICA OTHER THAN THOSE ALREADY BEING "EXTENSIVELY EXPLORED" SUCH AS THE ANTARCTIC PENINSULA.

2. EMBOFF SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN RESPONDING TO ARGENTINE QUERY.

--A CENTRAL THEME OF THE ANTARCTIC TREATY, AS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE II, IS FREEDOM OF SCIENTIFIC INVESTIGATION. AN EFFORT TO RESTRICT ACCESS FOR SCIENTIFIC PURPOSES TO ANY AREAS OTHER THAN THOSE DESIGNATED UNDER THE AGREED MEASURES FOR CONSERVATION OF ANTARCTIC FAUNA AND FLORA OR OTHER SIMILAR MEASURES WOULD BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH THE TREATY.

--A COUNTRY EMBARKING ON A SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION FOR THE FIRST TIME WOULD BELIKELY TO CONSULT FORMALLY OR INFORMALLY WITH GOVERNMENTS OF MORE EXPERIENCED TREATY CONSULTATIVE PARTIES OR WITH THEIR NATIONAL ANTARCTIC COMMITTEES VIA SCAR REGARDING LOCATION OF A STATION. THE LATTER, FOR EXAMPLE, WAS THE CASE AS REGARDS POLAND. THUS, GUIDANCE CAN BE PROVIDED AS TO AREAS THAT MAY BE TENDING TO OVERUTILIZATION FOR SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH.

--FOR THE ABOVE REASONS, THE US WOULD NOT FAVOR A PROPOSAL SUCH AS THAT SUGGESTED BY THE ARGENTINE REP.

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3. FYI. ARGENTINE SUGGESTION HAS ALL THE EARMARKS OF AN EFFORT TO LIMIT ACCESS TO THE TERRITORY IT CLAIMS IN ANTARCTICA, PERHAPS OUT OF FEAR THAT THE INCREASING NUMBER OF NON-ARGENTINE STATIONS THERE, I.E. A SECOND SOVIET AND A NEW POLISH IN LAST TWO YEARS IN ADDITION TO EXISTING SOVIET, CHILEAN, UK AND US STATIONS AND POSSIBILITY OF A BRAZILIAN STATION IN FUTURE, WILL DILUTE ARGENTINE CLAIM. AS EMBASSY IS AWARE, ARGENTINE PROPOSAL IS CONTRARY TO THE BASIC US POSITION ON TERRITORIAL CLAIMS IN ANTARCTICA AND IS THEREFORE UNACCEPTABLE TO THE US. END FYI. VANCE

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